

Purdy Caught in Wiretap Dilemma, Prober Says

The chairman of a special House committee investigating the State police said Friday night he thought resigned Commissioner E. Wilson Purdy had been "caught on the horns of a dilemma as to wiretapping."

"For him to admit knowledge of it would make him party to an illegal action," said Rep. Ronald G. Lench (D., Beaver). "For him to deny knowledge of it would cause some doubt of his ability as an administrator."

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Rep. Lench said it was not the committee's intention to "get" Col. Purdy and said he didn't believe the committee forced his resignation. Purdy charged in his letter of resignation that the House unit initiated a sweeping attack on his character, ability and integrity.

Another member of the committee, Rep. Herbert Fineman (D., Phila.), who was instrumental in starting the police probe, said Purdy "owed it to both the people of the State and his men to resign."

CALLED SMOKE SCREEN

He said the State police commander's resignation was "as condemning as when State police Maj. Willard Stanton took the Fifth Amendment 77 times" while under questioning by the House committee.

He called Purdy's resignation "a smoke screen to further confuse the public."

Meanwhile, Democratic candidates for the gubernatorial nomination blamed Gov. William W. Scranton for the wiretapping "scandal."

"The Governor must not be allowed to whitewash this issue," said Sen. Robert Casey (D., Lackawanna). "The issue at stake here is not just the illegal act of a public servant. The safety, security and privacy of every citizen, homeowner, businessman, newspaper and radio or TV station is also involved. If they can tap one phone and

get away with it today, what is to prevent them from tapping thousands tomorrow?" Both Casey and Philadelphia industrialist Milton Shapp, his opponent for the nomination, called for further investigation of the wiretapping issue. A spokesman for Detective Angelo Carcaci, who admitted wiretapping before the committee,

said Carcaci's actions "were all done under direct orders of his superiors and our position is that whatever he did, he was following orders as a policeman."

Paul Chalfin, Carcaci's attorney, said his client will meet reported court-martial proceedings against him "when they occur."

"We will defend any charges in the proper time and in the proper forum," Chalfin said. Similarly, Huetle F. Dowling, attorney for Carcaci's superior, Maj. Stanton, said he could not comment until he saw the court-martial specifications against Stanton, who he characterized as a "very capable law enforcement official."